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REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

George
ID 0961
5a
4760 Mt. Aukum Road
Placerville, CA 95667
May 14, 1983

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WASTE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

L. Edwin Coate
Acting Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 19101

RE: Facility No. IDD0008000961

Dear Mr. Coate:

I received you "Order of Compliance" and hope I can give you information to help you clear up this contamination problem. I am not and have never operated either of the two oil plants.

I loaned George Drexler a considerable amount of my life savings. He put up his two plants as collateral to secure my loan. It was arranged as a sale-leaseback. When the Drexlers failed to make the lease payments, I spent from March, 1981, until January, 1982, in litigation trying to recover the security (the two plants). They were awarded to me in January, 1982. The plants were closed then and have never been reopened or operated. I did not see the Rathdrum plant until May of 1982.

I knew nothing of the kinds of oil being processed. I was never informed of this. Drexler and his sons and Pickett, Johns, and Foss are the people who were responsible for the operation and all matters pertaining to it. When I visited Drexler in 1979, he assured me he was recycling used motor oil. He never mentioned to me that he was even considering the handling of hazardous waste, so I had no knowledge of it.

I've tried to sell the properties since acquiring them in 1982, without any success. Now it appears I cannot get clear title to the Rathdrum plant. I was advised by my attorneys to pay Pickett the balance that Drexler owed him, to which I expected clear title. Drexler was to have paid Pickett off long before I had to take over. I don't know how this will be settled at the present time. Pickett threatened to foreclose so I made the payments before the clear title situation was clarified, on the advice of my attorneys.

I received no communication from EPA until July, 1982. I have been cooperating with Michael Brown of Seattle and Athena Lalikso of the Boise office since then.

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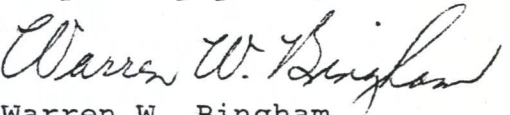
When Drexler left the plants, he, his sons and employees created this serious problem. They just picked up and left the mess and did not use your guidelines to do so.

In answer to Page 3, Paragraph 6, Pickett never communicated with me or got my approval for signing as owner of the property. They could have had my address and telephone number anytime by calling their Woodland office.

The total sum that I have lost due to this deal with Drexler is over \$400,000. This is the majority of my life savings. I have no income from this lost money now. I am not able to invest more money in this Rathdrum property to keep it or clean it up. Drexler and his sons and operators are financially responsible to bring this plant back to a safe condition. They are still in the oil business.

I do not know how to answer any of the other points in your "Order of Compliance." I would like to have an informal hearing, if you feel I could give you any more information in person. I will call Mr. Kenneth D. Deinger to ask for an informal hearing appointment, and if you feel I can help more, I shall come to the hearing. Please let me know immediately, as I have affairs to take care of here in California.

Very truly yours,


Warren W. Bingham